

CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF

So New York State, by an Act of April 23, 1823, incorporated a company and the following clause furnishes information for the same: "A water communication can be formed between the rivers Delaware and Hudson." A water communication!

A canal! Why not? Had not the Erie Canal, begun in 1817, proved "an enterprise of national importance?"

Robert Fulton had changed fancy into fact and "steam navigation of deep waters" had been mastered. So the problem of Hudson River and Canal transportation was solved. Yes, but these mines were a long way from the terminus of the canal.

When it was known that the newly-formed company had completed its organization with Philip Hone (a fastidious New York gentleman for whom Honesdale was named) as the first president, that stock had been sold in New York City and contracts let for seventeen miles of canal construction, more adventurers found their way into this very scattered settlement which may or may not have been called Barrendale (notwithstanding the prevailing wilderness) at this time. A wilderness it was, however, with all the dangers of exposure and the prevalence of wild life accompanying home-making in a primitive woodland.

By this time Mr. Salmon Lathrop and Captain Charles Smith, contractors, who had built portions of the canal, had settled here. Mr. Lathrop moved into the old Log Tavern (the first house built here, erected possibly as early as 1822 by the Wurts Brothers) standing on the site of the present D. & H. station, and Captain Charles Smith building a log house on the site now occupied by the residence of Mr. James H. Paul on Garfield Avenue.

We can fancy the raised eyebrows of the settlers when a newcomer would arrive, bringing news of the outside world and the advances of civilization—of new ideas being put into practice by this company for which many settlers were working.

Then in the summer of 1827 a stranger came—an engineer! When it was learned that he had been sent to this valley "to survey and locate a railroad route" to connect these mines with the terminus of the canal, many a head shook in silent dis-